

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00526 031610Z

53

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05

OMB-01 IOE-00 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /101 W

----- 106650

O R 031516Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2915

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0526

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SF, WF

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA SEAN MCBRIDE

REF: STATE 051549, LUSAKA 508, LONDON 2828, DAR ES SALAAM 0718

1. UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA SEAN MCBRIDE CALLED ON
AMBASSADOR AS SCHEDULED AFTERNOON OF MARCH 2. MCBRIDE
EXPLAINED THIS WAS FIRST CALL HE HAD PAID IN LUSAKA SINCE ARRIVING
PREVIOUS DAY AND THAT HE HAD NOT YET MET WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA OR
OTHER GRZ AUTHORITIES. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE BEHIND CALL APPEARED
BE GIVE US COPIES OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO JANUARY DAKAR
CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND NAMIBIA. MCBRIDE PARTICULARLY
ASKED US TO READ REPORT ON DAKAR CONFERENCE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS
PREPARED FOR SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BY
WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN LAWYER JOHN DUGARD. MCBRIDE SEEMED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00526 031610Z

REGARD DUGARD REPORT AS IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD MAKING SOUTH

AFRICANS GENERALLY BETTER INFORMED ABOUT NEED TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE IF VORSTER "DETENTE" POLICY TO BE CREDIBLE TO AFRICANS.

2. MCBRIDE, AS HE HAD DONE IN DAR AND IN NEW YORK, REPEATED HIS SUGGESTION FOR CONVENING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE UNDER OAU, NOT RPT NOT UN, AUSPICES TO CONSIDER NEUTRALIZATION OF ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA. PROPOSED THAT SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS SOVIET UNION, US, AND CHINA BE INVITED. MCBRIDE READILY AGREED WITH OUR OBSERVATION THAT WITH MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC VICTORY NOW WITHIN ITS GRASP MPLA REGIME IN ANGOLA UNLIKELY SEE MUCH BENEFIT FOR ITSELF FROM SUCH A CONFERENCE. MCBRIDE DID NOT PUSH PROPOSAL VERY HARD AND SEEMED TO BE COMING AROUND EO CONCLUSION THAT HIS PROPOSED CONFERENCE IS PROBABLY A NON-STARTER. HE ADMITTED AT ONE POINT THAT IT WAS ONLY IDEA HE COULD THINK OF AS MEANS FOR AVOIDING GREAT POWER CONFRONTATION OVER NAMIBIA.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO HIS ALLEGED LUSAKA PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS (LUSAKA REFTEL), MCBRIDE INSISTED HE MISQUOTED. SHEN ASKED BY PRESS HOW UN WOULD REACT IN EVENT SWAPO WERE TO INVITE COMMUNIST TROOPS TO HELP IT TO LIBERATE NAMIBIA, MCBRIDE SAID HE HAD RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS UP TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO DECIDE. HOWEVER, MCBRIDE HAD ADDED THAT IN VIEW OF MOST UNSC MEMBERS' ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS IN ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA, HE COULD NOT SEE HOW THE UNSC COULD OPPOSE AN ACTION BEING TAKEN TO END THAT OCCUPATION. IN THE PUBLISHED PRESS REPORTS MCBRIDE'S REFERENCES TO THE UNSC DID NOT APPEAR, THUS GIVING A MISLEADING IMPRESSION OF WHAT HE HAD ACTUALLY SAID.

4. AS HE HAD WITH AMBASSADOR SPAIN (DAR REFTEL), MCBRIDE ARGUED THAT CONTINUED HARPING BY SOUTH AFRICA ON THREAT OF "COMMUNISM" AS THE RATIONALE FOR MANY OF ITS APARTHEID AND REPRESSIVE POLICE MEASURES HAS COME TO MAKE COMMUNISM SEEM TO MANY AFRICANS TO BE RESPECTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO SOUTH AFRICAN RACIST POLICIES. HE FELT THAT THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR IS NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD IN WASHINGTON AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE URGED AFRICANS TO RESIST SOVIET/CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION STRUGGLES. WE POINTED OUT TO MCBRIDE THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 00526 031610Z

THIS WAS SERIOUS OVER-SIMPLIFICATION OF USG CONCERNS WHICH WERE REALLY OF TWO ORDERS: FIRST, THE SOVIET ATTEMPT TO EXTEND INFLUENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BY MILITARY FORCE WHILE PROFESSING TO SEEK LOWERED TENSIONS WITH US, AND SECOND, THE INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN TROOPS INTO AFRICA TO IMPOSE A MINORITY REGIME ON ANGOLA. MCBRIDE INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD THESE US CONCERNS. HE SEEMED UNAWARE, HOWEVER, THAT US HAD ALSO EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION

IN ANGOLA AND CALLED FOR ITS REMOVAL. HE WAS SURPRISED BUT PLEASED WHEN THIS WAS POINTED OUT TO HIM.

5. MCBRIDE APPEARED DRAW BACK SOMEWHAT FROM HIS EARLIER ALLEGATIONS ABOUT US MILITARY COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. NOR DID HE REPEAT HIS CONCERN THAT US MIGHT SEND TROOPS TO NAMIBIA TO AID SOUTH AFRICANS AGAINST CUBANS. HE READILY ACKNOWLEDGED OUR REMINDER THAT US HAS HAD EMBARGO ON ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR SOME YEARS. HOWEVER, HE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT SOME FORM OF COOPERATION IN FIELD OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS OR INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE REMAINS AND STATED HIS CONVICTION THERE WAS MORE TO ADMIRAL BIERMANN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON THAN' JUST AN INNOCENT COURTESY CALL AT PENTAGON.

6. COMMENT: AS NOTED ABOVE, MCBRIDE COMMENTS TO US WERE RELATIVELY MODERATE AND SUGGEST HE BACKING OFF SOMEWHAT FROM SEVERAL OF HIS MORE EXTREME RECENT CONTENTIONS/SUGGESTIONS. FROM HIS REMARKS WE HAVE IMPRESSION MCBRIDE NOT ESPECIALLY PLEASED WITH THOUGHT OF SOVIET/CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN STRUGGLE FOR NAMIBIA BUT FEELS IT MAY BE INEVITABLE AS CONSEQUENCE CONTINUED SOUTH AFRICAN INTRANSIGENCE AND WESTERN INDIFFERENCE TO SWAPO AND TO LEGITIMATE DEMANDS OF NAMIBIAN PEOPLE. MCBRIDE UNFORTUNATELY REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNPERSUADED BY OUR REPEATED ASSERTIONS US NOT IN SOME WAY SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING SOUTH AFRICA MILITARILY. HE AGREES DEPARTMENT OF STATE STRONGLY OPPOSES ANY COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA MILITARY BUT SUSPECTS US MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX NEVERTHELESS COOPERATING IN SOME WAY WITH SOUTH AFRICANS, CONTRARY TO STATE POLICY AND PERHAPS WITHOUT ITS KNOWLEDGE. ANY FURTHER IDEAS DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ABOUT HOW TO DISPROVE ERRONEOUS CONCEPTION MCBRIDE HAS WOULD BE WELCOME. HE PLANS REMAIN LUSAKA UNTIL MARCH 9 BUT MAY RETURN TO NEW YORK EARLIER IF, AS HE HAS HEARD, OAU MEMBERS PLAN RAISE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LUSAKA 00526 031610Z

ANGOLA/NAMIBIAN ISSUE AGAIN IN SECURITY COUNCIL SHORTLY.
WILKOWSKI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, INDEPENDENCE, NAMIBIA, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LUSAKA00526
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760081-0100
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603100/aaaadkdl.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 51549, 76 LUSAKA 508, 76 LONDON 2828, 76 DAR ES SALAAM 718
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIEWS OF COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA SEAN MCBRIDE
TAGS: PFOR, SF, WF, SG, UN, (MACBRIDE, SEAN)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006